

CONFIDENTIAL

November 3, 1962

(23)

WASHINGTON EMBASSY REPORTS RE EVENTS IN CUBA

In report dated October 31, Embassy stated: (1) No newspaper published any news from the Soviet Union, nor was the Soviet Union mentioned. Revolucion and El Mundo republished excerpts from Peking press supporting Castro's demands; (2) No mention of Soviet support in new propaganda posters;

In report of November 1, Embassy stated: (1) Press states that Pravda is supporting Castro's 5 points; (2) Calls for blood donors, donations of transistor radios, clothing, for armed forces; (3) Calls on people to save water, gas, electricity.

In report dated November 2, Embassy stated: (1) Continued press emphasis on Castro's 5 points; (2) A usually well-informed counter-revolutionary source says Fidel is in a desperate mood, since even Goulart has left him without help. In view of his hopeless political and economic future, Fidel is aiming for war in order to die honorably. Moderate and cooler heads in the government trying to restrain him; (3) Havana skeptical about likelihood of restraining Castro. Only Hiboyas might be able to have some effect on him; (4) Reports of 80,000 arrests wrong. Only small number of people arrested.

In reports dated October 31 and November 1, Embassy stated: (1) Castro's five demands considered reaction his having been ignored during US-USSR negotiations; (2) Cuban public appears perfectly aware consequent drastic loss prestige Castro regime. Many Soviet flags have disappeared from Habana buildings and streets. Only fanatics now applaud appearance of Castro on movie screens; (3) Rumors circulating that Soviet Ambassador Alexeyev will be replaced; (4) Food situation in interior apparently disastrous; (5) Newspapers mention existence International Brigade. Algerian FLN members recuperating in Cuba have joined Brigade.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY *MJ Hunt*

DATE 3/5/68

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